

WASHINGTON CITY.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1859.

Business Notice.

As the business of the Union establishment, in view of the proposed change in its terms, will be conducted strictly on a cash basis, all agencies for the collection of subscriptions for the Union are discontinued. No payments should be made to Agents after this date, except to Mr. W. C. Lippincott, Jr., who is authorized to make collections in Baltimore, Maryland, and Virginia.

Washington, March 23, 1859.—W.

The foregoing notice is not intended to include any agents or collectors that we now employ or have heretofore employed in this city, but those only who have performed such service in other parts of the country.

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THE EXPIRED CONGRESS.

The outrage upon the constitution which the expired Congress has inflicted in refusing to provide for one arm of the federal service—the coincidence of this first act of revolution with the three-hundred-and-tenth anniversary of the establishment of the government—the signal manner in which the same Providence who sustaining had from the first been so manifest in the history of our country, has marked this event by the sudden demise of the two chief officers of the department suffering the revolutionary blow from Congress;—these notable circumstances and coincidences have made a deep impression upon the mind of the Christian people of our country.

It is to be recollected that every member of the expired Congress was sworn to support the constitution of the United States, including the constitutional departments of the federal government. It is to be considered that an example of incendiarism, of revolution, of faction, has been set—not by an irresponsible mob—not by a thoughtless and excited bourgeoisie; but by the highest functionaries of the land, by sworn officers of the government, conspicuous before the country for good or evil example, confided in by the people for distinguished merit, armed with the power to preserve or destroy, responsible to the country, to their consciences, to the constitution, to history, for their acts. When great deeds of faction are committed by men filling the eyes of the nation, charged with the responsibilities of government, entrusted with the ark of the covenant of its institutions, it becomes a far graver matter than when these acts are but the result of a local popular ebullition of feeling or spasm of fanaticism. In such case the incendiarism is national, is official, is organic.

It is organic, because it is impossible for one great act of delinquency like this to end with itself alone; but necessitates many corollary irregularities, some or other of which cannot be avoided. In the exigency in which we are now involved, either the public service must stand still, or some actual or constructive violence be done to the public laws and usages, or else the executive department of the government must take it upon itself to meet one revolutionary act by another. Congress, after two years of deliberation, in full view of the consequences of the act, declines to make provision for one department of the government. Is the Executive authorized to repudiate this deliberate action of the legislature; to declare that its decision shall not stand; and, by convening it anew, to compel obedience to its own will, by enforcing a reversal of the former deliberate action of Congress? All conflicts of this sort between co-ordinate departments of government are hurtful to the integrity of public institutions; they inaugurate a course of revolutionary proceedings such as—running out to natural results—drew so much misery upon France a half century ago, and have reduced the Spanish American republics to hopeless anarchy and desolation. Have we taken the first step in that stormy and dismal journey of revolution which ends in civil rupture, industrial ruin, and social desolation and despair?

If not accepted and acquiesced in by the country how is the revolutionary act of Congress to be met? Is the Executive to assume that Congress did not intend to do what it did do with solemn deliberation? Is it to deal with matured and responsible legislators as masters dealt with truant pupils who have neglected their task—sending after them and compelling them to return to its performance? Is the relation of the Executive to the legislature one of superiority and censorship, enabling it, when Congress deliberately declines to legislate upon a special subject, to use measures which shall extort from it action such as it deliberately declined to adopt before the duress? An attempt of that sort by the Executive, whatever it might be in intention, would be nothing else, in the eye of the constitution, than usurpation. The legislature is a co-equal, co-ordinate branch of the government with the Executive; it is at least not inferior, if it be not superior to the Executive, in dignity and authority; and the Executive is bound to accept its deliberate and voluntary action as sacred from all Executive assault, direct or indirect. An attempt to enforce action from Congress which Congress has chosen not to grant would be an infringement of the legislative privileges, and would do more or less violence to the constitution. Yet the late action of Congress may force the Executive to a revolutionary recourse of this sort.

There is no doubt that we stand much in need in our country of what is now actively agitated for in Great Britain—"parliamentary reform;" but the Executive is not the appropriate or a competent reformer in the case. It has become painfully apparent to the country that Congress is fast degenerating from an efficient, competent, pains-taking legislature, into an impulsive, distracted, callous political convulsion. Party politics has usurped the place of business in its deliberations—whole months being given to stale and unprofitable political wrangling, where hours only are given to legitimate objects of legislation. The constitution requires the Executive to submit recommendations to Congress, from time to time, touching the interests of the Union; and the President did at both sessions of the expired Congress submit various important recommendations intended to meet very grave exigencies in the public affairs. With few exceptions, these recommendations received no consideration from the body.

Nor did the recommendations of the Executive fare worse than those of its own committees and adjunct functionaries. In a great many cases the committees of the expired Congress performed herculean service and initiated most urgent and important measures of legislation. The labor was nearly all thrown away; scarcely any of the recommendations of its own committees receiving attention from Congress. The Court of Claims, a most important adjunct of Congress, ably constituted, indefatigably industrious, and eminently worthy of confidence;

a court expressly established by Congress, to analyze the legal principles on which private claims are based, and to sift the evidence by which they are sustained—this valuable court made a great deal of business for Congress, to which Congress paid as little attention as to the recommendations of the Executive and of its own committees. This spirit of indifference to the action and sentiment of co-ordinate and subordinate branches of the government was carried by the two houses into their dealings with each other. The House, which had taken no action upon the important recommendations of the President in regard to the foreign policy of the government, deliberately reprobated the Senate in formal resolution for alleged unconstitutional procedure; and a vital measure of legislation fell on a point of punctilio.

It was, of course, impossible for legislation to get on in a Congress which refused to consider the recommendations of the Executive, the business laboriously prepared by its committees, and the solemn action even of its own constituent houses. What the true remedy is for this paralyzing anarchy, this absence of all conventionalism, of all spirit of compromise and concert, this mania for civil and "objection," this refusal of individuals to accept any action from auxiliary agencies as *prima facie* right, judicious, and expedient—what the remedy for all this distraction and consequent ineffectuality we cannot tell. But this is certain, that the disease is beyond the cure of the Executive, and the expedient of an extra session only promises an aggravation of it, rather than a cure.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York, (Friday night.)
March 11, 1859.

We are to have a really monster meeting at Tammany Hall on next Monday night, "to express the sentiments of the people on the subject of the acquisition of Cuba." Several distinguished speakers from different States have been invited to address the meeting, and it is hoped that most of them will attend. I believe that Hon. Volney Howard, of California, formerly member of Congress from Mississippi, has been invited, and that it is probable he will be with us and comply with the invitation. Mr. Howard made one of the ablest and most eloquent speeches on the Cuban question in the halls of Congress that have ever been delivered on the subject, and no one is better qualified than he to address the people as to the advantages to the United States to be derived from the acquisition of the island. I am told that Hon. Sylvester Mowry has also been invited to speak.

Approve of Cuba. The Evening Post and the National Intelligencer have discovered a mare's nest of unusual size, and filled with a maddening number of not over-fresh eggs. They have found out that they have reason to believe that it is highly probable that, unless something happens which they are unable to understand, Mr. Horatio J. Perry, secretary of the United States Legation at Madrid under Mr. Soule, wrote some letters to the State Department after the departure of the chief of the mission, showing what a very amiable fellow he (Perry) was, and of his upright, admirably conciliatory, and extraordinarily generous character. These letters, which letters have either never been, or are not now, on file in the State Department. The Intelligencer is "surprised" that the imaginary Perry "overture of a treaty," and which embraces all sorts of wonderful concessions on the part of Spain, is not forthwith and ventures to hope that the Intelligencer may be used to procure it, or even a copy of the precious document. But the Intelligencer does not outrage decency, as does the Evening Post on all occasions, by the use of language more fitted for a low tap-room than for the columns of a newspaper which claims to be refined and respectable. The Intelligencer really believes that the Perry overture was communicated to the Department of State, and was there mislaid. But the gentle, refined, and poetical Post is sure that "wretched schemers" suppressed the document. There is something absurd, ridiculous in the whole story, and something supremely contemptible in the accounts which it is now circulating (?) democratic (?) newspaper in the United States, "has the audacity to base upon it. Even supposing that the officers of the State Department of two administrations had consented to suppress the Perry overture, what then could establish an undying peace between the United States and Spain, convert her most Catholic Majesty to free trade, and give Americans the most unbounded liberty in Cuba, would that act of itself prevent the world from knowing anything of the great *chef d'œuvre* of Perry's diplomacy? Would not the whole world know of it, and would they not have been in a position to tell us, and would they not have shown how unreasonable we were in refusing their liberal overture? Did they, too, conspire with the "wretched schemers" to defraud Perry of the fame he had won? The editor of the Evening Post was recently in Spain, at least he has published within a few days a very vivid book describing five of a tour in that country, and how is it that no one told him of Perry's exploits, and how the diplomatic records of the nation have been tampered with? The Post is an adept at the defamation of dead men and persons, and is temporarily deprived of the means of defence. That journal "ridicules" the agency of the Intelligencer, it not vilifies the memory of William L. Marcy. The Post abuses the great men of the nation who, it knows, could not afford to stoop to notice its low scurrility. It abuses Secretary Floyd last year; it abuses Secretary Toney yesterday and now, in order to outdo itself, it abuses Secretary Cass.

We may expect in a few days a very fierce attack on the late Gov. Brown, and if Secretary Thompson, Secretary Cobb, and Judge Black are not accused soon in its columns of murder, arson, and highway robbery, respectively, some radical charges will be made against the editorial management of that detestable paper. If it does not, nothing can save their memories from the Post's slanders. An altercation occurred yesterday evening on the steps of Delmonico's restaurant, in Beaver street, between Gen. Wheat, late of Waller's, Sicilian army, and Colonel Canby, the notorious Costa Rican commander. The former, the moment he saw the latter, approached him and spat in his face; the Colonel made the retort *espéral*, whereupon the General rejoined by the application of a cane to the Costa Rican's head, and the two combatants were immediately interchanged, and a resort to the most sulphurous means of avenging, spitting, and caning spoken of as inevitable between two distinguished generals. I have not heard that they have left for Canada or Cuba, but it may be so. The *Intelligencer* says that some indignity offered to General Wheat while a prisoner of war by Colonel Canby, and the supercilious refusal of the latter to give any satisfaction. "To a prisoner."

The sepy rebellion, the details of which were so graphically and minutely given in a morning paper, prove to have been a hoax. The company of emigration and of quarantine, and a large posse of police proceeded valiantly to the supposed scene of action, determined to do or die, and they returned, having neither done nor died, because there was no rebellion. I hear that Ray Tomkins, the reputed Nona Sabid of the Staten Island papers, committed no act of violence to the customsmen further than entertaining them most hospitably at his elegant mansion on the hill above the quarantine buildings. I hear, nevertheless, that if the legislature does not provide promptly and efficiently for the removal of the "nuisance," it will most surely be burned, in spite of the commissioners.

FORT BELKNAP TO BE ABANDONED.

[From the Dallas (Texas) Herald, Feb. 23.]

A correspondent at Fort Belknap informs us that the order for the abandonment of Fort Belknap had been received at that post, and that preparations for the removal of the troops would commence in the course of a week or ten days. Several companies of the 24th cavalry are ordered to Camp Cooper. A post will be established either there or in the neighborhood. The selection of the site of the new post has been entrusted to Major Thomas, now in command of Fort Belknap. The buildings at Fort Belknap are to be turned over to the owners, Throckmorton & Co.

The abandonment of Fort Belknap, and the removal of the troops to the Clear Fork of the Brazos, is in pursuance of an understanding between Lieut. Gen. Scott and Gen. Twigg, at their late conference at New Orleans. We should not be surprised if it were soon followed by the breaking up of the lower reserve and the removal of the Indians outside of the line of posts, and perhaps beyond the river. This movement will put to the pecuniary interests of the adjoining counties.

THE NORTH BRITON'S MAILS.

We give the following additional items received by the North Briton:

ENGLAND.

In the House of Lords on the 21st, Lord Derby appealed to Lord Grey to postpone his pending motion in regard to the proposed canal. He said Mr. Gladstone was on route for England, and he would undertake, if the motion was postponed for a fortnight, that no act which the Ionian Parliament might pass, should be ratified until the house had an opportunity of discussing any motion that might be presented.

Lord Grey assented, and the subject was postponed.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Maguire gave notice that he should shortly call attention to the recent arrests in Ireland.

Mr. Walpole, Secretary of the Home Department, introduced a bill adjusting the vexed question of church rates, by making payment of tithes instead of compulsion. The bill was favorably received and read a first time.

The correspondence in the Charles and Georges affair is published.

Mr. Felix Belly left Southampton 17th February in the steamer Panama for Nicaragua, in order to take possession of the concession of the canal in the presence of the two Presidents, Martinez and Mora, who are to meet for the purpose on the 27th of March at Rivas. Mr. Belly is accompanied by a staff of thirty-three persons, including his secretary, General M. Lavasseur, formerly French minister at Mexico, sundry other officials, and a strong corps of gendarmes.

The London Times, in noticing the departure, says it will probably cause some surprise in New York, and is not likely to be looked upon with indifference at Washington. It thinks the English capitalists will be chary of investing in the enterprise.

Berlin journals speak of a projected marriage between the Prince of Wales and the Princess Alexandra, daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia.

[From the Manchester Guardian, Feb. 23.]

There is but little intelligence from Paris to-day, but the accounts agree in showing that the gloom caused by the apprehensions of war is deepening, and the French funds again depressed. Among the causes of the increased apprehension is the language believed to have been used by Prince Napoleon to a deputation of Italian residents in Paris, who congratulated him upon his marriage with the Princess Clotilde. He is reported to have said, in replying to their congratulations: "Gentlemen, you cannot doubt of the Emperor's sympathy and interest for Italy. The greater weight it attached to Prince Napoleon's words, as it is commonly believed that the Emperor is much swayed by his counsels, and that those counsels are most unfavorable to peace. Another alarming rumor, which is noted in the *Independence Belge*, affirms that Lord Cowley's visit to London was intended for the purpose of convincing the British government that a conflict between France and Austria is inevitable, and of urging it to endeavor to localize that conflict instead of vainly seeking to avert it. To such rumors as these are added the knowledge that there is no cessation of warlike preparations; and that the Emperor's readiness to retire, in order to make way for a foreign Prince, if by that means the Roman provinces can be united into one State. If we may credit the *Independence Belge*, the French and Russian governments have agreed not to maintain in the Paris conference the legality of Mr. Conza's election, but to inquire into the matter, and to decide upon the result. It is declared that they will permit an isolated intervention for the purpose of annulling it.

[From the Paris Correspondence of the London Times, Feb. 20.]

When mentioning on Friday the audience granted by the Emperor to the deputies of a great commercial city of France, who were charged with expressing the sentiments of their constituents on the war, I noticed the difficulty of coping satisfactorily the meaning of some of the words attributed to his Majesty. "*Rassurez vous, Messieurs*," is intelligible enough, but "*La paix se fera*" is hard to be understood while peace is not yet disturbed. The phrase would be suited to the last stage of war, such as that after the taking of Sebastopol. I have again inquired into the matter, and I hear that the Emperor's words were "*Rassurez vous, Messieurs, la paix se fera par la victoire*." If this be the correct form, as I am told it is, there can be no mistake. Admitting its correctness, I should be unwilling to throw any doubt on the sincerity of the august interlocutor, in spite of the notes of war-like preparation which I hear are not yet discontinued, and the military appearances still kept up.

Commercial affairs in France are now confined to operations from day to day, nor is it probable that any reaction will take place until the question of peace or war shall be decided. Among the rumors which are now current, the most prevalent is that of a conference to be held at Lyons, as being still under the effects of former financial catastrophes which had occurred there during the last eight days, and which amount, it is said, to 12,000,000. Not only have a great number of private families suffered by bankruptcies, but the commercial establishments of Lyons, and not being prepared to meet the unexpected demands made on them in consequence of the panic caused by the previous failures, have been compelled to file their schedules in the bankruptcy court, with the hope, however, of being enabled, at no distant period, to come to an arrangement with their creditors.

[From the Paris Correspondence of the London Times, Feb. 23.]

The idea of the conference, summoned for the purpose of settling the affairs of the Moldo-Wallachian election, will attempt to meddle with the thorny Italian question is now definitely abandoned; but the rumor of the day is that France, England, Russia, and Prussia are agreed to Austria to consent to a special conference with a view of settling the question of the introduction into the Roman States, in order to prepare the way for their evacuation by foreign troops. Scarcely any reasonable hopes are entertained of good from such a meeting. The only possible basis of a serious negotiation would imply the entire renunciation on the part of France and Prussia of the main part of their project, namely, the expulsion of Austria from Lombardy and Venice. That question, which is the vital one at Turin, and the *sine qua non* of the official French pamphlet, will not, it is abundantly certain, be submitted under present circumstances to any Congress to which England, Prussia, and Austria are parties.

It seems pretty clear from the general tenor of the German news that the articles in the official journals of Berlin and Vienna do not speak the real sentiments of the Austrian and Prussian governments, but are the result of orders given to speak France fair for the present, to acquiesce in every condition of expression emanating from Paris, and to put upon the Emperor's speech a more favorable construction than it really bears, in order that if matters should come to extremities the German powers may stand well with the world, and be able to point to their conduct as exhibiting a disposition to treat upon reasonable terms. It is said to be a full and complete reply to the telegraph of Gen. M. Buel's recent circular note to the German courts. It is said to be in complete opposition to the pacific articles of the official journals, and represents the situation as almost inevitable, and as an imminent event.

GREAT FLOOD OF THE OHIO—SILWNEETOWN PARTIALLY SUBMERGED.

[From the Southern Illinoisian, March 4.]

Since our last issue the river has risen to within four feet of the memorable flood of 1832, the highest water mark at this point. The water is four feet deep at our office door on Main street—the whole town is submerged with the exception of a few of the upper stories of the houses on the Main street, and, as a consequence, most of the inhabitants have been driven to seek a refuge of safety from the invading waters of the raging Ohio in the second stories of their dwellings. The streets are navigable in almost any part for steamboats. Business-gone, and the people are suffering from the want of food, and being little or no communication with the country. A vast sheet of water, miles in extent, meets the eye in every direction. The destruction to property along the Ohio and the banks of the tributary streams has been immense. A correct estimate of the losses which have been sustained by the country is not yet made. Every one whose premises have been inundated has suffered more or less. As we go to press the water is slowly receding, and we hope by next Friday to be able to once more view *terra firma* in the vicinity of our town, as we have grown heartily sick of the seafaring life to which we have been subjected the past week.

We were shown yesterday (says the Charleston Mercury of the 10th) a ripe strawberry, the product of the garden of a successful amateur cultivator of this city, which measured three-and-a-quarter inches in circumference, and was a full inch in length. In the same garden several vines have fruit upon them, but none other have fully ripened.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

At the Geneva charter election in New York the whole democratic ticket was elected, with three exceptions, by majorities ranging from 40 to 129.

A democratic meeting in Barbours county, Virginia, endorsed the renomination of Hon. A. G. Jenkins for Congress.

At a democratic convention in Hamilton county, Tennessee, resolutions were adopted expressing adherence to the principles of the Cincinnati platform, and continued confidence in President Buchanan. Delegates were appointed to the State convention, which will assemble shortly at Nashville.

At a democratic convention in Haywood county, Tennessee, resolutions were unanimously adopted expressing unwavering confidence in the honesty, fidelity, and patriotism of President Buchanan. Delegates were also appointed to the State convention.

Gov. Wickliffe, of Louisiana, has issued his proclamation, ordering an election to be held on the first Monday in April for an associate justice of the supreme court of Louisiana for the third supreme court district. The election is to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Voorhies.

Impressed with his patriotic services in defence of the South, a number of his personal and political friends residing at Griffin, Georgia, on the 14th of February last, tendered to Senator Iveson a public dinner; which Mr. Iveson accepted without naming the time at which it should take place. In accepting the compliment, Mr. Iveson expressed his profound acknowledgments for the flattering manifestations of their confidence and favor.

It is always evidence of faithful service when a member of Congress receives the approbation of his opponents. Mr. Hatch, the efficient democratic representative from the Buffalo district, New York, has received such testimony. The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser (opposition) says that in all matters affecting this district, Mr. Hatch has been a faithful and watchful legislator.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Commissions have been issued to the following gentlemen, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate:

David M. Bates, district attorney for the State of Delaware.

Horatio J. Harris, district attorney for the southern district of Mississippi.

Walter Forward, marshal for Oregon.

John Pettit, chief justice for Kansas.

Gen. Denver, the popular commissioner of Indian Affairs, has tendered his resignation.

FALLING OF THE FLOOR OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

[From the Oswego (N. Y.) Palladium of the 9th.]

The most awful calamity occurred last evening about fifteen minutes after seven o'clock at St. Mary's (Catholic) Church that has ever befallen any church in this city. A mission was opened at the Church on Sunday last by Missioners belonging to the order of Redemptorists, and the congregations have been immense every evening since, every seat being crowded and the aisles also, with interested listeners of all classes of citizens. Last evening another overwhelming audience had assembled to listen to a sermon on the subject of "The Last Judgment." The church was literally packed with people. The exercises of the evening had just commenced, or were about to commence, when about one-third of the floor, immediately in front of the altar, gave way, from the immense weight, and fell to the basement, precipitating a great number of the audience in an indiscriminate mass into the abyss below.

The scene that ensued is beyond the power of language to describe. The groans, shrieks, prayers, and supplications of the mass of human beings thus thrown into a confused heap into the chasm below, as well as the horror-stricken mass beside, in the other part of the house, was awful beyond description. Those who were uppermost in the precipitated mass struggled to escape by climbing up and over each other, trampling under those beneath.

A universal panic seized the whole of the assembly instantly. A terrific rush was made by those on that part of the floor not fallen, to escape from the house, amid the shrieks and groans of those being trampled under their feet.

The alarm was soon spread by the shouts and lamentations of the frantic crowd, and the bells were rung, supposing it to be fire, and the firemen all turned out. As soon as the mass of people had left the church, a number of men, together with Mr. Guard and the Redemptorist priests, Joel H. Wain and others rushed to the relief of the unfortunate people who were lying dying, or broken, except the several persons who were known to be in an unconscious state and many were seriously injured. One man, Lawrence Murray, brother-in-law of Luke Radigan, member of the Oswego Guard, was taken down dead; also Mrs. Mary Garlin and Mrs. Bridget Langdon, who were conveyed to the house of R. H. Martin, esq., opposite, and soon expired. Another woman, Mrs. Margaret Hennessy, was taken to the residence of Mr. Kane, where she also expired in a short time.

Inquests were held upon the bodies. The verdict in each case was that they were trampled to death. The jury made a post-mortem and careful examination of the locality and origin of the calamity. It was found that a portion of the large cross beam near the altar was very much decayed in the centre by dry rot, but to all appearances, externally, was perfectly sound. This beam broke off under the excessive weight, thus causing the disaster.

WHY LOWE WAS MURDERED.

[From the Louisville Courier, March 9.]

Facts are fast circulating in the community which go to show that some of those who seemed to be the friends of Maxwell in the Hawesville tragedy were not so much his friends as they were the enemies of Lowe. They made use of the Maxwell difficulty as a means of wreaking their vengeance upon Lowe, whom they hated more than they loved Maxwell. Indeed, had it not been for some of these enemies of Lowe acting as the friends and advisers of Maxwell, we doubt not that the difficulty would have been adjusted without the shedding of blood.

ARMY ORDERS.

The following orders have been issued by the War Department:

1st. Purchases by the subsistence department of pickles, salt, ketchup, dried fruits, and fresh vegetables, unless for the sick in hospital, are prohibited for the future.

2d. Two issues per week of desiccated vegetables may be made in lieu of beans or rice.

3d. When fresh beef can be procured at 44 cents, or less, per pound, net weight, it will be issued to the troops five times per week.

S. COOPER, Adjutant General.

We understand that in the month of November last the merchant ship Thomas Watson, of New York, cleared at Galveston, Texas, with a cargo of cotton for Liverpool. The master of the Watson was refused a clean bill of health by the British collector at Galveston, which had been certified to by the collector of the port. The ship was consequently detained outside the bar for twenty-five days, until driven ashore by a norther, when she narrowly escaped a total wreck, and was obliged for safety to put to sea without a bill of health. The owner of the Watson has preferred a claim against the British government for ten thousand dollars damages.

An attempt was made on the 10th instant to set fire to the Boston State-house, by firing a large pile filled with shrapnel in the basement. When the alarm was given, and during the confusion, two suspicious-looking persons attempted to force their way into the coat-room assigned for the members. The smoke filled the whole building. The senate took a recess, and the house suspended business for a short time. Both houses were filled with spectators and members at the time, and the excitement was very great. The fire was extinguished without much damage, but there is no doubt that it was purposely ignited.

A recent letter from Kentucky says the growing crops of small grain have come out wonderfully. The prospects of an abundant yield of wheat are highly flattering. Similar reports are received from all parts of Tennessee.

THE LATE POSTMASTER GENERAL, AARON VENABLE BROWN.

"When hearts, whose truth was proven,
Like these are laid in earth,
There should a wreath be woven,
To tell the world their worth."

The death of the Postmaster General has been one of the greatest incidents of the past week, and has awakened a corresponding feeling in the public mind.

On Monday, the 28th of February, he returned home from his department pale and exhausted, and, after dining, sought his room, complaining of chilliness and indisposition. After a severe chill he seemed totally unwell; but Mrs. B. imputed his weakness to over-fatigue, not dreaming how nearly exhausted were the springs of life. On Tuesday morning a physician was called in, who declared his disease to be pneumonia; and for two days he continued violently ill, suffering great distress from difficulty in breathing. On Friday his malady took one of those capricious turns upon which the sanguine are so apt to found hope, and which tempt the sufferer, from feeling relief, to imagine that a restoration to health is certain. Considering his disease conquered, his family admitted his assistant, (Mr. Horatio King), who conversed freely upon the business of the department; and on the same day the defeat of the Post Office appropriation bill was by accident revealed to him on the evening when his beloved family thought him out of all danger, and were almost gay in the anticipation, they were suddenly informed of the necessity of apprising their relatives of his danger, as all hope of recovery was at an end.

The power of death is a hard lesson to learn, and there are some hearts which it is difficult to impress with. His devoted wife was prepared for a speedy recovery, but not at all for death; and, steadily refusing to admit despair into her heart throughout, gave long days and nights with a fortitude and strength that seemed superhuman; she sat in speechless anguish by his side, his ministering angel, his guardian spirit, his earthly sustainer and support. But, alas! the summons had been sent forth, the angel of death had started upon his errand, the seeds of disease long sown had taken deep root, and were about to bear fruit. During the severest periods of his disorder he was delirious, and it was remarkable to observe, from the incoherent words he uttered, how entirely he elevated principles of the man retained their predominant place. There was constant expression of trust in God and prayers for redemption to bear it. Through all his illness sufferings he never murmured or expressed the slightest impatience at his long continuance, but in moments of unusual anguish would cast his eyes upward with the words, "Oh! my blessed Lord."

During the last two days and nights, he rambled on incoherently—though, at intervals, perfectly sensible. His low ejaculations were so indistinct between the distressing gasps for breath that only a word here and there was intelligible. At one moment, turning his eyes, fraught with a whole soul's tenderness, upon his agonized wife, he said: "My dear—wife, we—will go back—Tennessee—Memphis, (the name of his country seat near Nashville); then, as his mind wandered off, she was only able to catch isolated words, such as postage, sustain itself—ah! the democracy—will have a—hard battle."

To an elderly lady, who had specially endeavored herself to him by her attention during his illness, he said, placing his hand upon her head, with touching solemnity, "God bless—you," and soon after he grasped the hand of "Uncle Ben," who had been for forty years his faithful body servant, and expressed, in isolated words, the regret he felt at requiring such a fatiguing attendance. On the night before his death, there was in all that mournful household no sight so touching as the little group of dark faces, huddled together in the room adjoining the chamber of death, with chairs drawn close to the door, the tears falling like rain, as they listened to the weakened respiration of their idolized master. It spoke eloquently for the character of the man who, life had ever dispensed kindness; and favors, not to the rich and powerful, but the unprotected, the defenceless, the widow, and the fatherless!

On the evening referred to, being told by Mrs. B. that the President was in the room, he seemed to rally, and as Mr. B. took his hand, said, in a clear and distinct manner, "Mr. Buchanan, I have endeavored to discharge my duty faithfully—to do what I thought best for the good of the country." In a voice broken with emotion, the President replied, "You have done more than your duty;" and to the closing words of the dying man, broken by gasps for utterance—"I thank you—for your kindness—tune—and mine"—the President added, "Every interview, Governor Brown, has increased my attachment for you."

About midnight he joined fervently in a prayer offered by Mr. Granberry, a Methodist clergyman of our city. At the close of this, he turned a long, lingering gaze of wistful tenderness upon the face he loved best on earth, and said, in a voice clearly intelligible to all around, "My dear wife, we shall meet again when the fashion of this world passeth away." From this hour he sank slowly but surely, and it is consolatory to think that his last moments were free from acute suffering—the bodily energies waning gently like the twilight, and the mind, though clear, partaking of that growing languor which had crept over the frame with which it was associated.

All these things were right,
By darkest thought projected light;
And bright, three times, Almighty God, are those
On Civeries of angels who are to be
Too and away to better than to die
In sheltered vale where mist too soft arise
And from to hilt the rock and valley
Guardian angels waited by
To calm his struggles, catch his latest sigh
With angelic touch they closed his weary eyes,
And on their wings his spirit homeward flies.

From this time his devoted wife seemed to absorb all his thoughts. He was patient and thankful for the smallest attention, abounding in tender anxiety for her, following her slightest movement with his eyes with that anxious, loving, appealing look which seemed to say: "I can no longer trust myself to speak." After the power of speech left him, he extended his arms, clasping her to his heart with a fervor which even the approach of death could not diminish. And so he died. On Tuesday morning, at twenty minutes past nine o'clock, passing his hand and gazing into her eyes with that earnest look which even death could not alter, his spirit burst its bonds and rose on triumphant wings to find, we believe, happiness in the bosom of his God.

If the homage of general regret can at all assuage the severity of private affliction, the family and friends of Gov. Brown should feel that the calamity which has fallen upon them is not without alleviation. Few men who have occupied so prominent a station in our city have ever succeeded in securing so large a circle of devoted friends. It may be said with truth that the only pang he caused to all who had the happiness of his friendship was by his sudden death. As a genial companion, when the hard labors of the day were at an end, and the harder labors of the night had not yet begun, few men could compare with him. He was ever ready with the apt-gesture or the graceful allusion—so much so that it was a matter of surprise to all who knew him, and were aware of the unflinching industry with which he applied himself to the labors of his department, how he could find time for acquiring and keeping up so extensive a knowledge of literature. A singular accuracy and minuteness of observation had stored his mind with facts of every kind, and stamped the results upon an iron memory. Like all eminent men, he was simple in his manners and modest in his appreciation of himself. He has connected his name as a cabinet minister with the most important acts of this administration; and the Postal Department, of which he was so efficient a head, giving it public character by his fine abilities, managing its fiscal affairs with tact and sagacity, will feel his loss most deeply. At the cabinet meetings, where he was always heard with a respect due his superior judgment and worth, his voice will be heard no more. The democratic party, in which his identity had merged—the party in whose service he had labored to the sacrifice of his health—will suffer as from a standard-bearer fallen. He never aspired to take rank among the braves of that party, but, in common with its

greatest ornaments, he had a sense of strict responsibility which entered into every part of his life.

But it is not in any of these positions his memory is most cherished. There was that in the man himself which was far beyond them all; he never sunk in the judgments which his nature was permanent and noble. He did not forfeit what a man should live for that he might the better succeed in life; and there remained with him to the last the great art of living happily by the great means of diffusing happiness; it was this which made him always courteous and kind, generous, simple-hearted, of great modesty, of the strictest honor, and of spotless integrity. We might speak of his social and domestic qualities—the depth and tenderness of his moral affections; his appreciation of all worth however humble; his readiness to assist struggling merit; his reluctance to inflict pain on any one. To those who had the privilege of his acquaintance as friends, or who have been indebted to him for that which he never failed to afford—wise and judicious counsel—the thought of Gov. Brown will be among those recollections which they would most wish to arrest.

We are aware that in what we have said we have uttered nothing new. The public has already pronounced its judgment with unanimity; it has formed and expressed its estimate of him as a man and as a public officer; in both cases we accept the verdict as it stands; for in both we think it true and just.

All that medical skill could accomplish was done to preserve so valuable a life; and the most exacting and sorrowing heart a compulsion to admit that all that human skill could do was done. Dr. Tyler, Garret, and Miller, with all the duties of a large practice pressing upon them, visited him from four to six times a day and at the more dangerous and critical periods lingered by his bedside, the midnight and the morning finding them alike watchful. Dr. Force, a young physician of our city, remained constantly in the house preparing with his own hands the nourishing drink, and throughout long nights of agonizing suffering, sat by the lonely and anxious wife smoothing the path of her husband down the dark valley with a tenderness no devotion of brother or friend ever exceeded. The Rev. Dr. Hall, of the Episcopal Church, remained two entire nights with the afflicted family. Senator Gwin, a Tennesseean by birth, and an old friend of Gov. B., with his noble hearted wife, left their home and remained day and night with the family. Mr. Secretary Thompson and Mrs. T., kind and judicious friends, were admitted to his room, and shared through many trying hours the cares of his wife and physicians.

Tennessee, the beloved State to which his heart turned in its last hours, opens her arms to receive his heart torn.

It is a still and lovely spot
Where they shall lay their down to rest,
The white rose and forget-me-not,
Shall bloom upon their